

Texas will always be that community of quality, with credit due to the quality of its people—people like James Roberts.

COMMEMORATING GENERAL
LUCIUS D. CLAY

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, today Congressman Barr and I introduced a House Resolution to commemorate and honor fellow Georgian General Lucius D. Clay, the United States Military Governor of Germany and Commander of the US Forces in Europe following the end of World War II.

Born in Marietta, Georgia in 1897, Clay's Southern heritage influenced his ideology and policy throughout his life and military career. General Clay's impressive military career began in the 1930's as a military engineer. He soon established himself a highly competent, willful and vigorous man with a exceptional understanding of the purpose of government. General Clay's impressive role in US Military affairs in Europe and more specifically in Germany are marked not only by his military prowess but also by his humanitarian efforts to protect all men and women regardless of their military allegiance and ideology.

The Russian motivated Berlin Blockade, which halted all freight, passenger, water and food supply traffic to Berlin, began June 24, 1948. On June 26, 1948, the United States, under General Clay's leadership, began the Berlin Airlift that provided the German people with the necessary supplies for day-to-day existence. The Airlift continued for 328 days until May 12, 1949 when the Russians ended the blockade.

We are very pleased to honor the prominent role General Lucius Clay played in implementing the Berlin Airlift and in shaping post-WWII Europe. Issuing a postage stamp would be a first step in appropriately recognizing General Clay's role in history.

RECOGNIZE AND LAUD PROGRESSIVE
ALTERNATIVE BUDGET
FOR BERKELEY

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to, and to praise the passage of the Progressive Alternative Budget 1997–1998 for the City of Berkeley. This landmark budget was passed by the City Council on June 24, 1997.

This budget, initiated by the Honorable Vice-Mayor, Maudelle Shirek, established the seemingly impossible goal of forging a budget which would meet the needs of two apparently divergent, distinct communities within Berkeley. Although Berkeley's population of approximately 112,000 places it in the category of a small city, it has two polar economic groups with attendant issues, a common characteristic of large urban areas. To quote Vice-Mayor Shirek: "The City of Berkeley is divided into

two distinct societies; one consisting of those well above the safety net; the other made up of those just above, within or below that same safety net."

The Vice-Mayor's 1997–98 budget achieved the target of meeting the basic needs of the entire city by maintaining the excellent police and fire services, as well as meeting the special requirements of the citizens with the lowest income and the greatest needs. The Vice-Mayor, working with four other Councilmembers, Margaret Breland, Linda Maio, Dona Spring and Kriss Worthington, set three priorities in allocating the \$200 million discretionary funds available; increased employment opportunities for the poor and homeless, access to health care for at-risk individuals, and more affordable housing.

Within these three priorities, the Vice-Mayor proposed that the budget be appropriated in the following manner; city parks and waterfront, clean, safe streets, and the library (39.92%); public safety (22.84%); a healthy city and the disabled community (7.17%), the needy and soon-to-be-needy (5.35%); economic development (4.22%); children and seniors (3.19%); South and West Berkeley, two traditionally underserved sections of the city (0.32%); and arts and culture (0.29%).

In presenting this premier budget, Vice-Mayor Shirek expressed her appreciation for City Manager James Keene and his staff for the data that formed the basis of her budget, and was especially proud to note that this budget included the traditional annual 4% surplus as well as an AA rating enjoyed by only 17 other cities in California.

It is appropriate at this time for me to thank all those involved in this undertaking for their energy and hard work. I am proud that the Berkeley community has united to focus its attention on issues which are critical to the health, safety, and well-being of its citizens.

VOTE ON THE AMERICAN LAND
SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, on October 8, 1998, I inadvertently cast a vote in favor of H.R. 901, The American Land Sovereignty Protection Act. I intended to vote against the bill, but mistakenly voted for it. As you well know, debate on the bill and amendments to the bill occurred in the evening of October 7, but all of the votes were delayed until the next afternoon. The votes were then taken in rapid succession without debate or review.

As my record clearly indicates, I voted in support of each of the four amendments that would have significantly weakened this misguided legislation. Unfortunately when it came time to vote for final passage, I mistakenly thought we were voting on another amendment. Had I recognized that the vote was on final passage, I would have certainly voted "no."

I would like for my record to reflect that this vote was cast in error, and that should it come up for a vote again, I fully intend to vote against H.R. 901.

1972: SENATE PASSES EARLY BUY-
INTO MEDICARE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress will soon be introducing a bill to provide affordable health insurance for people in the age 62–65 bracket and for displaced workers over age 55. The bill will let Americans buy into Medicare at full cost—that is, without any cost to the existing Medicare system.

Five Senators have already voted for this proposal: Senators ROTH, STEVENS, THURMOND, BYRD, and INOUE all voted for it in 1972, when the Senate version of H.R. 1 included a proposal from the Senate Finance Committee to let spouses of Medicare eligible individuals and early Social Security retirees buy into Medicare.

Senator Dole also voted for the proposal.

The Senate floor statements by Republican Senator Gurney of Florida and Democratic Senator Cranston of California are still an eloquent testimony to why this year's proposal makes great sense. I would like to include this legislative history in the RECORD at this point. The numbers cited in speeches have to be updated, of course, but the reasons why we should give people the option of spending their own money to buy into Medicare are still accurate:

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE REFORM—
SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS OF
H.R. 1 AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE
ON FINANCE, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
UNITED STATES SENATE, RUSSELL B. LONG,
CHAIRMAN, JUNE 13, 1972

MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR SPOUSES AND SOCIAL
SECURITY BENEFICIARIES UNDER AGE 65

Present Law

Under present law, persons aged 65 and over who are insured or are deemed to be insured for cash benefits under the social security or railroad retirement programs are entitled to hospital insurance (part A). Essentially all persons aged 65 and over are eligible to enroll for medicare insurance (part B) without regard to insured status. The House bill includes a provision that would permit persons aged 65 and over who are not insured or deemed insured for cash benefits to enroll in part A, at a premium rate equal to the full cost of their hospital insurance protection (\$31 a month through June 1973).

Problem

Many additional social security cash beneficiaries find it difficult to obtain adequate private health insurance at a rate which they can afford. This is particularly true if they are of an advanced age, say, age 60–64. Frequently, these older beneficiaries—retired workers, widows, mothers, dependents, parents for example—have been dependent upon their own group coverage or that of a related worker who is now deceased for health insurance protection. It is a difficult task for such older persons to find comparable protection when they no longer are connected to the labor force.

Finance Committee Amendment

The provision makes Medicare protection available at cost to spouses aged 60–64 of Medicare beneficiaries and to other persons age 60–64 (such as a beneficiary who elects early retirement at age 62) entitled to benefits under the Social Security Act.